11. Statutory saatus to Commission's Observers and empowering them to stop counting of votes in certain situations.

12. Empowering Election Commission to countermand an election or order a repoll in entire constituency or part thereof even otherwise than on a report from the Returning Officer.

13. Amplification of offence of booth capturing, making it cognizable and more stringent for Government servants.

14. Bye-elections should be held within a period of six months of the occurrence of the vacancy.

15. No countermanding of an election in case of death of an independent candidate.

16. Enhancement of punishment for disturbances at election meetings.

17. Prohibition of public meetings or procession in connection with an election during a period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll.

18. Enhancement of the penality for illegal hiring or procuring of conveyances for free conveyance of the voters to any polling station.

19. Prohibition on any person other than authorised persons going armed within the neighbourhood of polling station.

20. Amendment to section 135 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

21. Grant of paid holiday to employees of any industrial undertaking or establishment on the day of poll.

22. No spirituous, fermented or intoxicating liquors or other substances to be sold, given or distributed at a hotel, eating house, etc. within a polling area on a polling day.

23. Conviction under section 2 and 3 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 to lead to disqualification for a period of six years from the date of such conviction.

Change in the Hindu Marriage Act and Special Marriage Act.

466. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision to remove from the Hindu Marriage Act and the Special Marriage Act the clauses prohibiting matrimony if one or both partners have epilepsy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The question of bringing in necessary amendments in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 for removal of references to epilepsy therein is under active consideration of the Government and a decision in the matter will be taken shortly.

दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय में लंबित मामले

467. **प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय में कुल कितने मामले लंबित हैं ;

(ख) उनमें से सबसे पुराना मामला (केस) कब से लंबित पड़ा हुआ है; और

(ग) जनता को शीघ्र न्याय दिलाने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हंसराजभारद्वाज): (क) और (ख) दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय की रजिस्ट्री से जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी